

Mayor and Board of Health

2014-2015

A Message from Mayor Chris Beutler



Chris Beutler
Mayor of Lincoln

2015 was another year filled with outstanding work from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department employees, the Board of Health and all those serving on the Department's advisory committees. The list of accomplishments includes two very significant awards:

- The prestigious Samuel J. Crumline Award for Excellence in Food Protection is presented every year to only one local environmental health jurisdiction that "demonstrates unsurpassed achievement in providing outstanding food protection services to their community." Our community is very fortunate that our Health Department does such a great job of working with the food industry and the public to protect us from foodborne illnesses.
- The Horizon Award from the Community Health Endowment (CHE) recognizes "our innovation, collaboration and dedication to creating a healthier community for all."

While the award recognizes a variety of Health Department services and programs, special recognition was given to the Department's partnership with CHE in the Community Mapping Project. This project gives us a visual depiction of the geographic differences in health status of residents living in different census tracts of our City.

The Health Department again demonstrated its quick response to problems in the community. In addition to helping with recovery efforts after the spring floods, the Department played a lead role in working with partners to address the dangerous substance K2. Efforts included a public awareness campaign, data collection and coordinating the lab analysis of the K2 found in the City.

Lincoln continues to be recognized by the National League of Cities for its efforts to support the "Let's Move Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC)" initiative to improve nutrition and increase physical activity, especially among Lincoln's children. Lincoln is just one of 12 U.S. cities that has committed to pursuing the most advanced and challenging strategies of LMCTC and one of only 7 cities selected to participate in a Learning Collaborative on Health Disparities and Childhood Obesity.

As we work to encourage more walking and bicycling in Lincoln, the Health Department worked with other City departments and community partners to develop the "Share the Road" campaign to promote the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. The Department continues to contribute to the success of 10 Health TV, our government access channel devoted to health and wellness programming.

Because of the hard work and dedication of our health professionals, Lincoln made great strides in 2015 toward becoming the healthiest City in the nation. Thank you to all those who work every day to meet that community goal!

2014-2015 Board of Health Members



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Vice President



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The Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health supports the mission of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department- to protect & promote the public's health. One of the central goals behind the mission is to provide service to vulnerable populations. In order to provide the best service to the greatest number of people, the Health Department collaborates with community partners to maximize all resources. We use measurable performance goals to assess the outcomes of our services. This allows us to track progress and make proper adjustments where needed.

Always striving to be a better organization, the Health Department is currently going through the process of National Public Health Accreditation. The goal of the voluntary national accreditation program is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of Tribal, state, local and territorial public health departments. Accreditation drives public health departments to continuously improve their organizational capacity and the quality of the services they deliver to their communities. There is no doubt that the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department is always striving to be the very best.

It is a pleasure to represent the Health Department Director, Judy Halstead, and her staff, because they are passionate about what they do. Their dedication shows in the outstanding way they care for people and work with local businesses and residents. We are also fortunate to be a part of a community where Mayor Beutler, the Lincoln City Council and the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners are seeking the best possible health and conditions for our citizens. The Board of Health takes the responsibilities you have bestowed on us very seriously, and we realize it is a privilege to represent you in this position. We welcome input and feedback as we continue to work together to make this the healthiest place to live.